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Economic and Social Council

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Substantive session of 2005
Coordination segment

Provisional summary record of the 17th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 6 July 2005, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Hachani (Vice-President) ..... (Tunisia)

Contents

Towards achieving internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration

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05-40898 (E)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Hachani (Tunisia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Towards achieving internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration (E/2005/56)

1. **The President** said that the theme for the coordination segment, "Towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration", was also closely related to the theme of the high-level segment, in an effort to bring greater thematic coherence to the various segments of the substantive session. The segment would address the role of the United Nations system in supporting the national efforts to implement the development agenda that had emerged from the conferences and summits of the past 15 years.

2. The United Nations system assisted many countries in achieving internationally agreed development goals, and to perform that role effectively, its organizations must align their activities around the goals, as should Governments. That would be a first step in creating synergies among the activities of United Nations system organizations as well as with national strategies and policies. The report of the Secretary-General contained in E/2005/56 provided important insights into what the system was doing to respond to those challenges. Discussion should focus on what was required from the United Nations system in assisting developing countries in their endeavours to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to the achievement of the international development goals.

3. **Mr. Civili** (Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs) said that the issue before the Council required action along two distinct but interconnected dimensions: policy coherence and cooperation for development. The first dimension involved the elaboration of the policy framework needed to ensure a coherent, integrated approach to achieving the development agenda. The second dimension entailed the role of United Nations organizations in helping countries to achieve the development goals.

4. The Secretary-General's report highlighted progress and major challenges on two main fronts: first, achieving greater coherence in policy development and in actual programmes and operations, and, secondly, sequencing their interventions to optimize the impact of their support on realizing the agenda. It emphasized the importance of developing a coherent and integrated policy framework for national implementation of the agenda and the key role the United Nations system could play in developing that framework, but it also recognized the need for the system itself to evolve in order to become the cohesive force for progress and change that current challenges demanded.

5. The pace of progress would depend on action at both inter-agency and intergovernmental levels. At the inter-agency level, the system should pursue the changes in policies and practices necessary to further align their work with both the goals and outcomes sought. The central message of the report of the Chief Executives Board (CEB), presented to the Council during the high-level segment, was that the common effort demanded by the Millennium Declaration and the United Nations development agenda had facilitated the evolution of a more coordinated, cohesive and functional system, yet it still faced the challenge of transforming its diversity and complexity into a source of strength that enabled it to respond in a flexible but concerted way to the challenges posed by the evolving international environment and the changing needs of developing countries.

6. At the intergovernmental level, there was a lack of a comprehensive, integrated process to review and assess overall progress in implementing the development agenda. The same sectoral approaches that too often prevailed within national Governments for dealing with development issues still tended to prevail in the United Nations system, hampering its ability to advance the agenda in a comprehensive, mutually reinforcing way. The Council and its functional commissions must take the lead in forging thematic coherence in their work by organizing it around the basic elements of the development agenda. Because of the breadth of its mandate, the Council was especially well placed to serve as an instrument for harmonizing the many ongoing assessment and monitoring exercises.

7. The proposals for annual ministerial-level peer reviews and for convening a biennial development cooperation forum were intended to strengthen the Council's capacity to exercise the strong leadership

that those responsibilities demanded. The Council might also wish to give further consideration to the proposal to plan meetings with the Bureaus of the governing bodies of United Nations system organizations and to review the timing and context of its examination of the CEB annual reports in order to integrate them effectively into the debate on system coordination.

8. **Ms. Taylor Roberts** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that coordination had emerged as a central issue in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. She stressed the importance of the regional dimension in support of the Goals. In fact, it seemed that an effort had begun to effect the greater coordination required. The Secretary-General's report highlighted the approach to coordination and strategic planning being pursued by the three Rome-based agencies, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), through the United Nations System Network on Rural Development and Food Security.

9. While the need for coordination had been recognized, the overall United Nations system had not yet internalized the cultural and organizational change required to give operational effect to it. There was a tendency to continue to assess and even to fund the system on the basis of specific programme outputs, resulting in competition among organizations for declining resources. The situation was made worse as an increasing proportion of the budget was funded from voluntary resources. In that situation, programmes were influenced significantly by donor objectives and preferences.

10. The achievement of the internationally agreed development goals required coordination, coherence and collaboration not only within the United Nations system but with other multilateral institutions, including the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The annual meeting of the Council with those organizations therefore took on great significance.

11. Higher levels of coordination across the system placed even greater demands on the Council, given its role as the central mechanism for system-wide coordination. A coordinated approach to the budget was also required. Efforts should be made to bring the Bretton Woods institutions under improved governance structures and into closer collaboration with the United Nations system. The Council should also address the long-term reconstruction and rehabilitation of countries in post-conflict situations.

12. **Mr. O'Neill** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Turkey and Croatia, the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, said that the European Union was strongly committed to the implementation of the outcomes of the conferences in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and in particular to the Millennium Declaration and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It remained committed to promoting the integration of the three components of sustainable development — economic development, social development and environmental protection — as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars.

13. The United Nations system had been expanding over time in scale and scope of activities, leading to significant duplication of mandates and actions between different bodies. The European Union supported the Secretary-General's efforts to pursue reform and ensure that the United Nations system was fit for the twenty-first century: relevant, coherent, adequately funded and effective. The September 2005 summit should give a clear mandate for further streamlining of the system. The European Union also supported the Secretary-General's appeal for a more integrated environmental governance structure, based on the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with a revised and strengthened mandate.

14. The Council should play a central role in the follow-up and implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and should provide policy guidance and an institutional framework for their integrated analysis and mainstreaming. It should continue to support policy coordination and harmonization among operational as well as humanitarian agencies. To improve its effectiveness and relevance, it could meet as a high-level development cooperation forum, where global, regional and national strategies could be reviewed, and voluntary peer reviews of the Goals could be

conducted. It also had contributions to make in post-conflict situations and humanitarian crises, but its role should remain at the level of policy coordination and review, rather than direct intervention.

15. The Chief Executives Board (CEB) should continue to execute its role in giving coordinated and coherent guidance to the United Nations system. The Board should support the full implementation of the operational reform agenda to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations system at the country level. The European Union would be interested to hear how CEB and the relevant Executive Committees, in particular the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), would work together to oversee and coordinate further reform of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies.

16. The functional commissions should continue to have primary responsibility for the review and assessment of progress made in implementing conference outcomes, while streamlining and improving consistency in their work. Engagement with civil society and the private sector was also important.

17. At the country level, the United Nations should be seen as operating as one team under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator. In line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, country teams should ensure alignment of programmes with comprehensive national development strategies reflecting country priorities and harmonized with bilateral donors. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) should be the mechanism for alignment with national strategies and the UNDAF results matrix should provide the means by which the United Nations contribution to those strategies could be evaluated. All members of UNDG and the specialized agencies must support the Resident Coordinator in promoting system-wide coherence of actions to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and improve cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions.

18. **Mr. Chulkov** (Russian Federation) expressed his country's support for the interlinked approach to the goals, challenges and instruments of the United Nations development agenda, as presented in the Secretary-General's report. He said that achievement of the development goals also required the integration of United Nations policies and programmes with the national priorities and strategies of Governments, under the main responsibility of the Economic and Social Council as the key coordination mechanism for development within the United Nations system.

19. The Russian Federation therefore supported the further strengthening of the Council, which was especially well placed to serve as a platform for monitoring progress in achieving the United Nations development agenda, fostering ongoing dialogue on implementation and generating ideas on best ways of encouraging national and international development, including financing. His country was thus in favour of the proposals to hold a high-level development cooperation forum during the Council's sessions, for which it favoured the high-level segment of its substantive sessions rather than the operational activities segment, and to conduct under its aegis annual ministerial-level assessments, rather than peer reviews of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

20. The proposal to convene timely meetings to ensure coordinated responses to natural disasters and to address other issues having implications for the achievement of development goals was also a sound one and, like all of the other initiatives mentioned, did not require a radical revision of the structure and timing of the Council's sessions. Indeed, any major change in that respect would have very negative consequences for the Council's political role and efficiency.

21. The Russian Federation recognized the need to ensure the thematic coherence of the work of the Council and its functional commissions, which were a key mechanism for following up major conferences and summits and had a role to play not only in reporting but also in making an analytical and policy contribution to implementation. Their working methods should therefore be optimized, but not necessarily in uniform ways.

22. He stressed in that regard the role of CEB in orienting the action of the system and that of UNDG in increasing coordination of its work at country level, and he expressed support for efforts to strengthen interaction between the Council and international financial and trade institutions.

23. In conclusion, he said that the high-level segment of the session had made an important contribution to preparation of the September 2005 summit and that, while agreement had not been reached on the draft

ministerial declaration, the negotiations had proved highly productive by focusing attention on the social and economic agenda of the summit.

24. **Mr. Gass** (Switzerland) emphasized the strong interrelation between achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of all the internationally agreed development goals, observing that the Council had a crucial role to play in coordinating them. That role could be strengthened only through a coherent approach to the ways in which the Council complemented the General Assembly, which had to continue to be the body where overall policy was set, while the Council provided the forum for its implementation, within the areas of its mandate.

25. The Council's effectiveness depended on its links with its subsidiary commissions, but also with the operational units of the United Nations system. It should build more systematically on the work of its functional commissions, in particular by harmonizing their multi-year work programmes and cycles and integrating the results of their deliberations into its work.

26. In coordinating the operational entities of the United Nations system, the Council needed to ensure that the necessary instruments were in place to monitor implementation of General Assembly resolutions on operational activities. Those entities must, however, be able to use their own coordination mechanisms, such as UNDG, with the Council's support.

27. As a policy forum, the Council had also to bring the operational implications of their work to the attention of governing bodies of United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, thus improving coherence between policy and operational activities.

28. Switzerland was not opposed to the proposal made in the Secretary-General's report concerning peer reviews but considered that a pilot process of voluntary peer reviews should first be launched in order to weigh their advantages and costs. As for the proposal that the Council could serve as a development cooperation forum for policy debate, Switzerland was open to such an initiative in the context or indeed in place of the high-level segment. Better use should be made of the forums and instruments already at the disposal of the Council and its commissions, and timely meetings on current and urgent issues could help raise international awareness and mobilize additional resources, while guarding against overlap with other United Nations system bodies.

29. In the common task of strengthening the Council's contribution to implementation of the international development agenda, the challenge lay not so much in finding consensus on new ideas as in taking forward steps already agreed upon.

30. **Mr. Ikouebe** (Republic of the Congo), after concurring with the views expressed on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Secretary-General's report was most timely in view of the need to gather new momentum in order to restore hope to many peoples in developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

31. While indeed poverty eradication was not an unattainable goal, those countries needed greater impetus and more concrete commitments from the international community. The recommendations of the Committee for Development Policy at its seventh session were a welcome step in that direction.

32. Notwithstanding the general consensus within the international community, very few countries would be able to achieve the Goals set five years previously. Despite some significant progress, poverty, unemployment, disease, environmental degradation and gender-based discrimination remained widespread.

33. Considering in such a context that only coherent, concerted action based on a shared vision of development could meet the needs of an increasingly interdependent world, his country commended the combined efforts of United Nations system bodies, whose coordination by CEB could ensure that the Goals were better taken into account among the priorities of the system.

34. UNDG and other institutional networks for cooperation had also made an effective contribution to implementation of the Millennium Declaration thanks to the synergies established in many countries. His own country had thus benefited from the United Nations reform process, in particular through the Resident Coordinator country programme. That programme, piloted by the Government and involving all stakeholders, fully addressed all the concerns relating to achievement of the Goals. The major advantage of such an approach was that it served to stimulate national ownership of development efforts and to

encourage the development of partnerships to attain the Goals.

35. The Republic of the Congo therefore fully supported the reform process, which could enable significant advances to be made in combating poverty and hunger, and it welcomed the fresh impetus given to international development cooperation through the building of partnerships. The Secretary-General's recommendations for the strengthening of the Council were in the same spirit and could be expected, by ensuring greater coherence of its action, to help the developing countries to achieve the Goals.

36. **Mr. Civili** (Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs) noted that an important contribution of the Secretary-General's report was the idea that the comprehensive agenda for further improvement of the United Nations system needed to be monitored by the Council, whose work would thereby gain greater certainty and predictability, as called for by the Group of 77 and China. On the question raised by the European Union concerning the relationship between CEB and UNDG, he said that it was close and mutually reinforcing, as illustrated in particular by efforts to address the "triple threat" in southern Africa, where CEB had entrusted the implementation of the country-level response to UNDG. Another example was CEB discussion on field coordination, particularly with respect to the role of Resident Coordinators. Both the Secretary-General and the Chair of UNDG considered it that CEB had an important part to play in that discussion in order to maximize its support for action in the field.

37. **The President**, on conclusion of the general debate, drew the Council's attention to the draft decision submitted by him under the title "Theme for the coordination segment of the substantive work of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council and multi-year work programme for the coordination segment" (E/2005/L.13). He took it that the Council could adopt that draft decision, which would help bring more predictability and certainty to its work and also enable the functional commissions and other subsidiary bodies to prepare their contributions thereto more effectively.

38. *It was so decided.*

39. Noting that the decision to be reached by the Council before the 2006 substantive session should probably concern a list of themes, with an indication of the year when they would be considered, he pointed out that other options for arriving at the complete list might be considered, as for instance the adoption of an indicative list of common themes from which the Council could choose its coordination segment theme on an annual basis.

40. He took it that the Council was ready to take note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Towards achieving internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration" (E/2005/56).

41. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.

United Nations E/2005/SR.18

Economic and Social Council

Provisional

14 July 2005

Original: English

Substantive session of 2005
Coordination segment

Provisional summary record of the 18th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 7 July 2005, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Hachani (Vice-President) ..... (Tunisia)

Contents

Towards achieving internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration

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05-41159 (E)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Hachani (Tunisia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Towards achieving internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration (E/2005/56)

Panel discussion on implementing the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration: perspectives and strategies

1. **The President** said that the panel discussion would focus on the work of the United Nations system organizations in Tanzania, thereby giving the delegates the opportunity to hear the perspectives of various national stakeholders, the United Nations country team, government officials and civil society. Delegates would be able to review the United Nations strengths and weaknesses in assisting the Tanzanian Government in its efforts to achieve the international development goals.

2. **Mr. Hendra** (United Nations Resident Coordinator for the United Republic of Tanzania), Moderator, said that national ownership in the United Republic of Tanzania was strong. The discussions would focus on the implementation and monitoring of the international and national development goals in terms of the national policy framework. The presentations would also touch on the role of the United Nations, particularly with regard to establishing a stronger alignment with the national processes.

3. **Ms. Mapunjo** (Commissioner for External Finance, Ministry of Finance, United Republic of Tanzania) said that her Government had started to work on the Millennium Development Goals in 2000. The main priority was to eradicate poverty by 2010, but that could not be accomplished unless foreign resources were extended. Other Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) priorities included universal primary education, improved health and gender equality. New development approaches had been institutionalized under the Tanzania Assistance Strategy (TAS) 2002. Some TAS best practices included government leadership in developing policies and strategies, involvement of other stakeholders in the development management process and the integration of external resources into the strategic expenditure framework.

4. There had been several positive outcomes of PRS1. Significant improvements had been made in priority sectors, particularly those of health and education. The final PRS I report emphasized that sustainable economic growth was the key to poverty reduction. The report also laid down the foundation for the national development agenda, the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP/ MKUKUTA). MKUKUTA integrated the Millennium Development Goals and other international development commitments at the country level, and coordinated all forms of implementation of the policies, strategies and initiatives aimed at growth and the reduction of poverty.

5. A Joint Assistance Strategy (JAS) aligning external resources with national development priorities under the MKUKUTA had also been formulated. The JAS principles included national ownership and government leadership of the development process, division of labour based on comparative advantages and a greater role for non-State actors in the development management process.

6. The United Nations played a fundamental role in providing policy and technical support under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and helping to coordinate the division of labour and cooperation under the JAS process.

7. **Mr. Mkai** (Director-General, National Bureau of Statistics, United Republic of Tanzania) said that a database had been set up to monitor poverty and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The Tanzania Socio-Economic Database (TSED) was an indicator and database system which facilitated the systematization, storage and analysis of performance indicators and allowed user-friendly access to data and presentations in maps, graphs, tables and reports. TSED was running on a stand-alone basis and on the Web. A few sample compact discs were available for those delegates who wished to study the database.

8. A common database had been set up because data were not easily accessible. Two focal persons in more than 20 TSED collaborating ministries and institutions were being trained to use and update the database. Target users included local government planners and policymakers, non-governmental organizations and donors. As a tool for the storage and dissemination of all quantitative information, TSED was at the very heart of Tanzanian poverty monitoring systems.

9. The majority of the Millennium Development Goals and targets had been incorporated in order to highlight priorities using empirical data; to inform the public and policymakers on progress in poverty reduction and goal achievement; and to trigger action to meet time-bound targets. Graphs pertaining to different goals and targets were provided as examples of available data.

10. Finally, TSED encouraged South-South cooperation, in that officials from several other countries had come to the United Republic of Tanzania to study the database.

11. **Mr. Kajege** (Coordinator, Coalition on Debt and Development, United Republic of Tanzania) said that civil society organizations had played a significant role in the formulation and monitoring of the first Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS I) in 2000. In 2004, they participated in the formulation of the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP), commonly referred to as MKUKUTA. Both programmes complemented the Millennium Development Goal targets.

12. With respect to goal achievement, it had been observed that: (a) the macroeconomic gains had not trickled down to the poorer segments of the population; (b) a net school enrolment of 95 per cent was feasible but drop outs remained a problem; (c) gender parity in primary and secondary schools had improved, but, the rising trend might not be maintained unless better sanitation facilities were provided; (d) slight improvements in infant mortality had been registered, but maternal mortality was actually rising; (e) with regard to health, it had been recommended that the Government should abolish taxes and tariffs on mosquito bed nets and that the bed nets should be subsidized in order to prevent the spread of malaria; as for HIV/AIDS, there had been no significant improvement; and (f) access to safe drinking water had increased over the last decades, although it was unlikely that the target would be reached because water access in urban areas had actually worsened.

13. The Government was still facing several challenges: most civil society organizations had very little understanding and knowledge of the Millennium Development Goals; little had been done to raise public awareness of the goals; and greater financial resources were required from both the Tanzanian Government and the donor community.

14. Nevertheless, the Government remained committed to poverty eradication and improved social well-being. The move to mainstream the goals into MKUKUTA augured well for their eventual implementation and, given the recent move in favour of debt cancellation, it could be expected that grants would be increased.

15. The United Nations could play a role by financing civil society organizations and assisting in their capacity-building; monitoring the implementation of MKUKUTA; and acting as a bridge between the civil society organizations, the Government and the development partners.

16. **Mr. Hendra** (United Nations Resident Coordinator for the United Republic of Tanzania) said that the country was an emerging model of reform because of its strong sense of national ownership. It had experienced five years of strong economic growth, macroeconomic stability, enhanced governance and improving socio-economic indicators, and had demonstrated a strong commitment to the Millennium Development Goals. In fact, it was on track to achieve Goals 2, 3, 4 and 7 on time. The Goals were fully integrated into the policy framework and subject to public debate, rather than being a parallel process. In fact in the new MKUKUTA 2005-2010, many of the targets were more ambitious than the Goals, for instance, aiming to halve extreme poverty by 2010, making Tanzania an "MDG-Plus" country. Tanzania had been the first country to adopt an innovative approach. Rather than addressing priority sectors, it focused on three key outcomes: growth and reduction of poverty; quality of life and social well-being; and governance and accountability. The strategy was truly national; not just the Government but civil society, the private sector, Parliament and development partners were involved in it, as had been demonstrated recently by the extensive public debate over budget priorities.

17. The United Nations system was promoting the Goals through advocacy, support of their full integration into key policy frameworks, support of the model Poverty Monitoring System, support of initial costing within the MKUKUTA framework and advocacy for mobilization of increased external resources. The challenges faced in supporting full integration of the Goals included moving to an outcome-oriented approach through planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring; costing the

Goals; capacity development, and providing truly joint United Nations support as one, not by agency.

18. Factors in the evolution of development partnerships in the United Republic of Tanzania included a very strong sense of national ownership and leadership regarding the Rome and Paris Declarations. The Tanzania Assistance Strategy (TAS) provided an overall framework of coherent partnership principles. Several best practices in the areas of harmonization and alignment had been developed, including the Independent Monitoring Group and "quiet times" from May to August each year when no external visits from partners were received in order to allow time to prepare the budget. Those practices had produced very good results: there was greater use of national systems, enhanced predictability and a large increase in external assistance and direct budget support. The objectives of the Joint Assistance Strategy (JAS) were to strengthen national ownership and leadership, improve aid effectiveness and bring the targets into line with the Rome and Paris Declarations on aid harmonization and alignment.

19. The United Nations had repositioned itself in Tanzania's dynamic development environment through joint analytical work on poverty and human development reports. The Resident Coordinator provided overall leadership in aid coordination and alignment by co-chairing the Development Partners Group (DPG) and housing the DPG secretariat. It had also provided support to the review of the PRS I paper and the Zanzibar Poverty Reduction Plan. The United Nations maintained a very tight focus on just three UNDAF outcomes aligned to the new MKUKUTA, and was working with such new instruments as direct budget support, sector-wide approaches (SWAPs) and baskets of aid to specific sectors.

20. A number of key challenges remained, however, and the United Nations system must ask itself if it was ready to move from an implementation role to a more exclusive policy advisory and capacity development role and to move away from many small project interventions to participation in new instruments aligned around national processes. The country team must decide whether it could sign up together to the new JAS, or just on an agency-by-agency basis. In order to maximize the new technical assistance policy, staff capacity, skills mix and incentive structure must be demand-driven and provided on a flexible basis. It must address the implications of the new policy on the role of United Nations expertise as outsourced through internal structures. Finally, the communications strategy must be unified to allow the United Nations to speak with one voice.

21. **Ms. Betson** (Ireland) said that the statistics and databases referred to in the presentations were mainly national, and she would like to know their relationship to international databases. She would also like to hear the views of the panel on the approach to eradication of malaria proposed by the Director of the Campaign for the Millennium Development Goals. Finally, she asked if the resident coordinator/country director system had been beneficial in the United Republic of Tanzania.

22. **Mr. Sow** (Guinea) asked for concrete examples of how coordination between the United Nations and the Government took place, and what mechanisms had been established for mobilization of international resources and exchange of best practices. In the context of South-South cooperation, he would like to hear more about the impact of the Tanzanian model on other African countries, and whether the Millennium Project report had also had an impact. Finally, he would like to know the extent to which civil society had participated in the implementation of the plan and whether the model could be applied to countries emerging from conflict.

23. **Mr. Schultz** (United Kingdom) said it was encouraging to hear that improved coordination had actually had an impact in improved performance. With regard to statistics, he wondered if there were still any other data collection systems besides the ones in use by the Government. He would also like to know if the United Nations country team felt that it was ready to move into the new areas outlined by the Resident Coordinator.

24. **Ms. Nemroff** (United States of America) said that she would like to hear more about the evolution of the role of the private sector and what kind of feedback had been received from small and medium enterprises. She would also like to know if the benchmarks and targets had been established at the country level or if they came from the United Nations or another source.

25. **Mr. Mkai** (Director-General, National Bureau of Statistics, the United Republic of Tanzania) said that it was not easy to eliminate parallel data systems, but in the PRS I, an agreement had been reached on an internal institutional framework to coordinate data collection, composed of a technical working group in

the Ministry of Finance to harmonize administrative data and a working group for the census and surveys in the National Statistical Office, which had helped to minimize parallel systems.

26. **Ms. Mapunjo** (Commissioner for External Finance, Ministry of Finance, the United Republic of Tanzania) said that her country had itself learned through South-South cooperation: in 1996-1997 it had sent missions to Latin America and had followed the model of Bolivia. It was sharing information with its neighbours in the region and with donor countries as well, through the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). A clear coordination structure had been established for working with partners through high-level consultations with all non-State actors, including the private sector, academia and political parties. All partners believed it was best to work together, since all wanted to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

27. **Mr. Kajege** (Coordinator, Coalition on Debt and Development, United Republic of Tanzania) noted that there were regular consultations between civil society and the Government on issues of common interest and that efforts were made at grassroots level to develop capacity for policy dialogue in the interests of government accountability. On the question of malaria, he said that it was still a problem but that the use of bed nets had substantially reduced its incidence. The challenge was to ensure that nets produced in conformity with World Health Organization (WHO) standards could be introduced into the United Republic of Tanzania in sufficient quantity. Government subsidies were being provided to that end.

28. **Ms. Mapunjo** (Commissioner for External Finance, Ministry of Finance, the United Republic of Tanzania), in response to the question from the United States delegate regarding indicators, said that the country's PRS indicators were fully in keeping with international standards.

29. **Mr. Hedra** (United Nations Resident Coordinator for the United Republic of Tanzania), Moderator, reverting to the question of bed nets, said that over a period of five years the number of children protected by that means had risen significantly and that pregnant women received vouchers to purchase such nets, financed by the private sector.

30. He referred to the first PRS assessment which had revealed a need for greater engagement on the part of civil society, reflected in the setting up of the Tanzania Business Council. That had made for closer coordination with Government and the creation of a strong inclusive environment in the country. The United Nations vision for the country carried the hope of the country team signing up to JAS and helping to maximize it.

31. Alluding in turn to the Millennium Project report — the Sachs report — he said that some of its aspects had been particularly discussed in the United Republic of Tanzania, where substantial progress had been achieved in primary school enrolments, which were so important for Goal 2. On the question of the costing of MKUKUTA, joint efforts were being made with civil society representatives to that end. In response to the question regarding a UNDP country director in the country, he observed that while, as yet, there had been no such appointment, there were, however, two deputy directors in place.

32. **Ms. Hollifield** (World Bank) said that it was a privilege to work in the United Republic of Tanzania, which was in the front line for good stewardship and leadership in coordinating the efforts of the donor community in support of the Goals, embodied in MKUKUTA. Tanzania took its international commitments very seriously, as reflected in the fact that the Government's goals were harmonized with them. In addition to using country-level systems for financial management and procurement, it had established a very robust strategy framework within which efforts were being made to weigh comparative advantages in order to find ways of better delivering aid. The World Bank stood ready to support the multi-donor approach thus being developed.

33. **Mr. Ndjonkou** (International Labour Organization), pointing out that employment was not among the Goals, said that the United Republic of Tanzania had a 20 per cent urban unemployment rate and a large working poor population, earning under $1 a day. He asked what could be done to bring employment into the debate around the Goals.

34. **Ms. Taylor Roberts** (Jamaica), referring to the representative of Guinea's question seeking guidance on how to build on the best practices of the United Republic of Tanzania and transfer them to other African countries, wondered whether an answer could be provided.

35. **Ms. Nemroff** (United States of America) asked what impact, if any, were the many infrastructure projects sponsored by the Japanese Government in the region having on capacity-building in adjacent countries.

36. **Mr. Mertens** (World Health Organization), after noting the joint responsibility of all the actors for technical progress under Goals 4, 5 and 6, emphasized the importance of the sustainability and quality control of interventions in order to ensure their effectiveness into the long term.

37. **Ms. Mapunjo** (Commissioner for External Finance, Ministry of Finance, the United Republic of Tanzania), endorsed the point made by the World Bank concerning the importance of using country systems and procedures for procurement. On the question regarding employment, she said that MKUKUTA contained very clear indicators of what was being achieved under the current PRS, while on the question of coordination and monitoring the development agenda, the United Republic of Tanzania relied on an independent body.

38. She stressed that a great deal had been able to be achieved through the projects funded from Japanese assistance, which were well within the Government's priorities, and that the collective nature of the endeavour was of the highest importance.

39. **Mr. Hendra** (United Nations Resident Coordinator for the United Republic of Tanzania), Moderator, said that MKUKUTA offered a rolling framework for integrating the Goals with the PRS and that employment figured significantly in the results-based matrix developed for the country.

40. Addressing the key question of how to scale up best practices, he noted that the Tanzanian Government had established a central website for documentation on poverty reduction and codification for the purposes of benchmarking. Joint missions, rather than missions from individual countries, also offered a promising way forward.

41. **Mr. Mkai** (Director-General, National Bureau of Statistics, United Republic of Tanzania) pointed out that poverty was monitored by a body set up in the Office of the Vice-President.

42. **Mr. Kajege** (Coordinator, Coalition on Debt and Development, United Republic of Tanzania) said that the poverty monitoring system included all stakeholders and that its output was established in a user-friendly language, either Swahili or English, for effective dissemination.

43. **Ms. Hollifield** (World Bank), referring in turn to the sharing of best practices, noted that OECD had set up a working party on aid harmonization and that the development gateway of the World Bank's website gave access to a relevant database.

44. **Mr. Hendra** (United Nations Resident Coordinator for the United Republic of Tanzania), Moderator, said that knowledge networks were linked through the Web and that the United Nations country team focused on sharing.

45. **Ms. Betson** (Ireland), noting that the results achieved in reducing child mortality (Goal 4) had not been impressive, wondered if members of the panel wished to comment thereon.

46. **Mr. Mkai** (Director-General, National Bureau of Statistics, the United Republic of Tanzania) said that the 2004 population and health survey had revealed a reasonable reduction in child mortality, but had given no evidence of any change in maternal mortality since the mid-1990s.

47. **Mr. Hendra** (United Nations Resident Coordinator for the United Republic of Tanzania), Moderator, stressed that Tanzania needed to redouble its efforts in that respect. That was one focus of the United Nations country team's advocacy and dialogue, considering that investment in health issues could have a huge impact on achievement of the Goals.

48. **The President** said that Tanzania could count on the full support of the entire United Nations system in meeting the challenges before it and expressed his conviction that the country's positive experience would be of great value to other African countries.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.